

January 20, 2004

The Honorable Stephen R. L'Heureux, Chairman  
House Education Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 207  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: HB 1188 – Relative to implementing indoor air quality standards for public elementary and secondary schools**

Dear Chairman L'Heureux and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 1188, relative to implementing indoor air quality standards for public elementary and secondary schools. Though the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) does not regulate indoor air quality, we would like to express support for Section 2 of the bill relative to improving energy efficiency.

DES has had a direct interest in the design and delivery of energy efficiency programs in New Hampshire, and has been working closely with the Department of Education over the last two years in promoting energy efficient schools defining criteria for energy efficient schools. DES has also worked closely with electric utilities in delivering state-wide energy efficiency programs, and has assisted businesses in installing energy-efficient measures. Energy efficiency measures, which reduce demand for electricity generation, help to avoid emissions of several air pollutants. In addition, school building designs which incorporate energy efficient systems also reduce operating costs over the life of the building, thus providing long term cost savings for school districts.

DES has always done its best to provide outreach and education resources to New Hampshire's schools, such as the *Energy Smart Schools* and *High Performance Schools* programs, in an ongoing effort to inform the state's younger population on the merits of environmental stewardship. DES supports initiatives which encourage energy conservation and efficiency for their environmental and public health benefits, and applauds the focus on schools for this legislation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 1188. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joanne Morin (271-5552) at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Nolin  
Commissioner

cc: Representative James Pilliod  
Representative Richard Drisko  
Representative Howard Dickinson  
Representative John Alger  
Senator Iris Estabrook  
Senator Jane O'Hearn